

## THE RICHMOND DISPATCH.

BY THE DISPATCH COMPANY.

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SUNDAY, JANUARY 29, 1888.

Its Constitutionality.

To whom would Mr. Cleveland look for an opinion as to the constitutionality of the Blair bill in case that bill should reach him during the current session of Congress? To his Attorney-General, of course. What is the Attorney-General's opinion on this question? We need not tell persons who read this paper regularly that he voted for the Blair bill himself when it passed the Senate during his membership in that body. But Mr. LAMAR, whom the President has just elevated to the bench of the Supreme Court of the United States, also voted for that bill at the same time. When, therefore, Mr. Cleveland has selected for the highest judicial office in the land and for the highest office in the Department of Justice men who are not only known to be friendly to the Blair bill but who have voted for it, what good reason can there be for fearing that he would veto it if it were passed?

And yet it would seem that Mr. Blair is to be opposed by some Democrats in Congress because they do not desire to compel the President to choose between a veto and approval. They assume that he would veto it if he were put to that test; and then propose to make that assumption the basis of their failure to pass the bill to its passage. A policy of that sort will not answer in Virginia nor in North Carolina, however it may be received in Kentucky, where Bourbonism seems to be as prevalent in politics as in positions.

We have mentioned the names of LAMAR and GARLAND as men whose opinion that the Blair bill is constitutional ought to be of some value and legal force to be modest in maintaining that it is not. But we could name numerous others. Hon. J. L. M. CURTIS, the American Minister to Spain, is one. His letter advocating the Blair bill is one of the strongest arguments in its favor with which the people have been favored.

We might name not only Senators RANSOM, JONES, GEORGE, HAMPTON, BROWN, and nearly all the Democrats at present in the United States Senate, but a list of distinguished worthies of other days, as men whose declarations in favor of Government aid to education ought to have settled the question of the constitutionality of the Blair bill. Governor BROWN quoted on two different occasions from the utterances of GEORGE WASHINGTON, THOMAS JEFFERSON, JAMES MADISON, and JOHN QUINCY ADAMS—four Presidents of the United States—in favor of national aid to higher education; and in this day nobody will be found to deny that children who have an opportunity to receive only a common-school education have at least as much claim upon the Government as the children of the rich. If the Blair bill is to establish West Point Academy as a bill to promote mendacity.

The Supreme Court of the United States has unanimously decided that it is constitutional to grant public lands in aid of common-school education. Attorney-General GARLAND, in alluding to this fact, added on one occasion, that as the Senator from Florida had well said, "If you could grant lands, you could, of course, grant money; if you could grant land worth a dollar and a quarter an acre, you could grant the dollar and a quarter in money." And this reminds us that the Charlottesville Chronicle demands either the lands or the money. In his first annual "address," as it was then called, President GEORGE WASHINGTON said:

"Nor am I less persuaded that you will agree with me in opinion that there is nothing which can better deserve your patronage than the promotion of science and literature. Knowledge is the basis of public happiness. In one which the measures of government receive their impressions so immediately from the sense of the community as in ours it is proportionally essential. To the security of a free constitution it contributes in various ways—by convincing those who are intrusted with the public administration that every valuable end of government is best answered by the enlightened confidence of the people, and by teaching the people themselves to know and value their own rights; to discern and provide against invasions of them; to distinguish between exercises of lawful authority; between encroachments proceeding from a disregard to their convenience; and those resulting from the inevitable exigencies of society; to discriminate the spirit of liberty from that of licentiousness, cherishing the first, avoiding the last, and uniting a speedy but temperate vigilance against encroachments with an inviolable respect to the laws."

Choose then GEORGE WASHINGTON and the opponents of the Blair bill. Our old friend of the Lynchburg Advance did not do us the honor to tackle the main point we made against him; and we see nothing in what he did say in reply to our article of last week which calls for a rejoinder. We will, however, remind him that we did not try to make it appear that "high protective tariffs are right and beneficial to the whole country." We seldom touch the tariff question. Whenever we do—on certain almost always—we do it for the purpose of reminding too zealous tariff reformers that there are two sides to the protection question, and, therefore, that it is not necessary to divide the Democratic party on that question. It is not altogether certain that the city of Richmond would be benefited

by sending nine hundred thousand dollars to Boston to pay a contractor living there for building a City Hall, the building of which by a contractor living in this city would cost the city fifty thousand dollars more. How many times could Richmond send a half million of dollars to Boston before she would transfer for thither as much money as the capital of all her banks amounts to?

Germany.

When we compare the fight that was made in the German Reichstag upon the Septennate bill of 1886-87 and the newspaper comment that bill excited with the complacent manner in which the "new military bill" has been accepted, it would seem that not only the German Government but the German people believe that war is inevitable. Despite the assurance of the Ministers that the passage of the Septennate before Christmas, 1888, was considered a necessity for the security of the empire, it was rejected. The bill was finally passed, but not until the Reichstag had been dissolved and a new Reichstag elected in a convulsion in which the Government succeeded by most earnest appeals to the patriotism of Germany and German love for the old Emperor. Even then it did not go through without strong opposition. The ostensible issue was a constitutional one—whether the army was the army of the Emperor or a parliamentary army, but the real difficulty was that the opposition objected to the expense, and felt secure to some extent in taking the position they did by reason of the fact that they believed a large element of the people did not consider the passage of the measure imperatively necessary. "The new bill," so far as we can judge from our dispatches, seems to have been accepted almost as a matter of course. Although it involves a large appropriation and the Government states that the sum designated may be the limit of the demand, it does not appear that the serious antagonism has developed. Of course it is impossible to say what difficulties may yet be in the way of the Government, but present indications are that the German masses recognize that the military establishment of the empire must be put on the best possible footing at any cost.

The Washington Republican's article of yesterday, purporting to be an argument on a constitutional question, is unworthy of notice. If the Republican could name one respectable lawyer, even in the Republican party, who would endorse its alleged reasoning, we should be surprised. There is no more reason to doubt the soundness of our argument than there is to doubt that the sum of two and two is four. It is impossible now for any State, southern or northern, to deny or abridge a negro's right to vote.

The Republican's argument will be appreciated at its real worth by the intelligent reader when he learns that that paper argues that if Louisiana were to lose half of her population by floods in the Mississippi river that State's representation in Congress would be reduced under the fourteenth amendment! Learned Theban!

According to the Dispatch's idea if the Mississippi river were to rise out of its banks and flood the State of Mississippi from the banks of the great river to the Alabama State line, leaving exposed two or three half tops upon which a dozen men were congregated, but sweeping into sea every other inhabitant of the State, these dozen would be entitled to their seven Representatives and two Senators in the Congress of the United States—Washington Republican.

So far as the fourteenth amendment is concerned they certainly would. But it is evident that the Republican does not know this. It supposes that if Mississippi were to lose all her voters except a dozen, the fourteenth amendment would thereby be violated!—and that somebody would thereby abridge the right of negroes to vote! That amendment proposes to punish a State for not allowing her male citizens to vote. All persons agree that a Territory without voters wouldn't be a State at all, much less a State entitled to representation in Congress.

The Norfolk Landmark urges the Legislature to pass an Arbor-Day bill. It well and truly says:

"We shall not have another Legislature for many years, and if it is passed now by the next session Arbor Day will be a fixed and fashionable institution, adding trees to the woods and fields, and pleasure and fresh vitality to those who devote themselves to the beauties of the day."

BRIEF COMMENT.

The man who said it was going to be an open winter should be hanged from the North pole.

"Mrs. LANGFORD's New York fence is both the New York authorities." Why don't they sit on it?

The Philadelphia Inquirer says: "Prejudice plays in a field from which facts are excluded." That's a neat way of sizing up the Republican party.

The St. Louis Globe-Democrat (Republican) says: "JOHN SHERMAN (Republican) says that he is very strong in Ohio, but the indications are that such is not the case." Even Ohio is not as black as she has been painted.

The Northeastern Christian Advocate says: "A Confederate flag hung up over the Supreme Court bench would be scarcely more offensive to the nation than LAMAR's personal presence there." What a commentary that paper's sentiments are upon its name.

New Books.

How to Succeed as a Stenographer and Typewriter. With quiet hints and gentle advice by one who "has been there." A Handbook of Miscellaneous Information and Suggestions. New York: FOWLER & WELLS, 1888.

For sale by the publishers.

First Steps in Electricity. By CHARLES BARNARD. New York: CHARLES E. MERRILL & CO.

The aim of this book is to give a series of simple and inexpensive experiments that will illustrate the general laws underlying the manifestation of the force called electricity.

For sale by the publishers.

Poems by Josiah Allen's Wife (MARTHA HOLLEY). Illustrated by GIBSON and others. Price \$2. New York: FUNK & WINGALDS, 1887.

For sale by the publishers.

Noted Musician.

A beautiful toned Piano, \$240—Stool and Cover. Cash \$10 and balance \$8 per month. M. B. RAMOS & CO., 903 Main street.

## THE MOON'S ECLIPSE.

SHADOW OF THE EARTH THROWS UPON ITS SHINING FACE.

Thousands of People in Richmond Make Observations and Comments Upon the Spectacle.

The eclipse was on schedule time. Not only that, but all the conditions for successful observation of it were good, excepting only that the weather was decidedly cold, and it required the curiosity of a scientist to stand the chilliness which came over one's body while on the street or on a balcony.

However, there were thousands here who went forth, many with opera-glasses, to see exactly what an eclipse of the moon meant.

The moon rose eclipsed, say, at 5:10—the totality having begun at 5:33. Thus the most interesting part, popularly considered—the gradual spreading of the darkness over the bright surface—was not visible. So far as any one here was able to determine, all the points of the eclipse as predicted were verified with high exactness—the time of beginning, the duration, the point at which the shadow left the moon, the peculiar red-copper appearance due to the small amount of light sent to the moon by the earth's atmosphere and then reflected back by the moon to our eyes—all the predicted appearances were well exhibited.

A total eclipse of the moon, though a striking phenomenon, and one that gives manifest and convincing proof of the astronomer's intimate acquaintance with the machinery of the celestial motions, is in itself an event of great astronomical importance. Astronomers traverse half the globe to have a two-minute's view of a solar eclipse, and find in its incidents profound intimations of the laws that govern the structure and workings of our solar system; but he passes by almost unheeded the striking and impressive total eclipse of the moon. Yet the astronomer may feel satisfaction in observing, as doubtless the astronomers did last evening, that it is not only the structure and workings of our solar system, but the possible basis of confidence in whatever statements as to the universe he may ask the scientific world to believe.

SOME VALUABLE RESULTS FORTHCOMING.

The following are from the Washington Star of yesterday afternoon:

"The eclipse of the moon that occurs to-night is rather an important event in astronomy," said Professor Paul, of the Naval Observatory, to a reporter this morning. "It is not only a beautiful sight, but it is an uncommon event, but that owing to certain preparations that have been made and certain objects that are in view, it will probably be productive of valuable results. Professor Otto Struve, a brother of the Russian Minister here and director of the Imperial Observatory at Pulkova, has been busy for a long time past making preparations for the event, and if we have good luck we shall undoubtedly be able to obtain a very correct calculation of the 'semi-diameter,' or the real size of the moon, and the size of the shadow of the earth in total eclipse; the light is almost blotted out, and the presence of the stars that happen to be near by is made visible. These are called occultations. Now, Struve has been getting out a catalogue of the occultations that are probable at this time, and calculated to suit the location of nearly every observatory in the world. His object is to obtain a great many observations of the occultations from all quarters of the globe, and from a very great number of observatories. The object of the moon's parallax, which means its angle of observation above the center of the earth. From this is easily obtained the semi-diameter, and from that the true size. We shall probably be unable to do so very accurately, but the observations of the first portion of it occurs so near the horizon that the observations will be clouded. But we shall work all of the instruments at the observatory, and unless it becomes very much colder we shall work out of the roof. The advantage of this system of observations is that by means of so much data the liability of error is almost eliminated. I think that this will be only the second time that the plan has been tried."

INTRA-STATE COMMERCE.

The House Committee Endeavoring to Perfect a Bill.

The House Committee on Roads and Internal Navigation—Mr. Dabney, of Albemarle, chairman—yesterday morning heard addresses from Mr. Doran and Mr. Eddy, representing the Norfolk and Western Railroad Company.

Each camp or organization is entitled to one representative to each 100 members, and all past commanders and present commanders are entitled to participate in the formation and subsequent work of the department.

From the past-Commanders Charles W. Williams, William C. Carrington, John B. Cooke, John Murphy, A. L. Phillips, and James W. White (the present commander), by virtue of their honors, and J. Taylor Stratton, Alexander W. Archibald, and Charles Arthur A. Spivey, B. D. Core, John A. Meany, Thomas A. Brander, and John Maxwell, by election, will be present as representatives. The indications are that there will be a full meeting of old Confederates on the occasion named.

CONFEDERATE CAMPS.

Lee Camp's Delegates to the Meeting of February 13th.

On the 13th of February, in pursuance of action laid by the military conference of ex-Confederates in this city on the 10th inst., the delegates of the various camps and other organizations now in existence and to be formed between this and that time will meet in this city at 8 P. M. in Lee Camp Hall for the purpose of electing departmental officers.

Each camp or organization is entitled to one representative to each 100 members, and all past commanders and present commanders are entitled to participate in the formation and subsequent work of the department.

From the past-Commanders Charles W. Williams, William C. Carrington, John B. Cooke, John Murphy, A. L. Phillips, and James W. White (the present commander), by virtue of their honors, and J. Taylor Stratton, Alexander W. Archibald, and Charles Arthur A. Spivey, B. D. Core, John A. Meany, Thomas A. Brander, and John Maxwell, by election, will be present as representatives. The indications are that there will be a full meeting of old Confederates on the occasion named.

Personal Matters Before Legislators.

Yesterday, while Mr. Komer was opposing a bill, which he characterized as a "plum cake," Mr. Hubbard arose to the point of order that the gentleman from Augusta was out of order in discussing the merits of the bill when an amendment was before the Senate.

Mr. Komer retorted: "The gentleman from Buckinghamshire takes a question arose as to a point of order when I speak." He then proceeded with what he had to say.

Presently Mr. Hubbard rose to a point of personal privilege and said he did not care to be placed before the Senate in the position of a "plum cake." He related to produce; that he certainly was man enough to say anything that he might desire to concerning Mr. Komer; that he only made points of order when he thought speakers out of order; that he meant nothing but the truth; and if Mr. Komer thought he did (Komer) knew where to find him.

Mr. Komer replied: "I take no notice of such statements made by Mr. Hubbard."

In the course of the proceedings of the House of Delegates yesterday a question arose as to a point of order, which Mr. Waddill and Mr. Lovins understood Mr. Waddill to make a flat denial of one of his assertions. After the two houses had adjourned Mr. Lovins sought Mr. Waddill and went into the Senate chamber, where Mr. Waddill then was, and in an interview with him, in very emphatic terms, expressed his opinion of Mr. Waddill.

"Steam and Its Application."

A lecture was delivered by Mr. William Simpkin at the Mechanics Institute last night on "Steam and Its Application." The lecture was a very interesting one, and the lecture was pronounced an excellent well-prepared effort.

Pick-Pocket Arrested.

Sergeant Tomlinson and Officer Shields yesterday arrested Eddie West, a colored man, on the charge of picking the pocket of Mrs. M. M. Forbes in the Second market and stealing some jewelry and \$17.

## GRAND OPERA IN RICHMOND.

Appearance of the National Opera Company Next Month.

Richmond is assured a season of grand opera in English by the National Opera Company. The performances will take place at the Academy of Music Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday nights, February 13th, 14th, and 15th. The strength of the company has everywhere been the admiration of the press and public. In the great ensembles will appear about two hundred performers of both the vocal and instrumental forces. In the list of principal players will be seen from the following: Soprano—Mme. Bertha Peterson, Amanda Fabria, and Emma Juch; Contralto—Amlie Claire, Agnes Perring, and Clara Poole; Tenor—Eloi Sylva, Charles Bassett, and Barton McGowan; Bass—Frank Yetta, Alonzo Stoddard, Andrew Black, William Merton, George H. Broderick, and William Ludwig.

The repertoire will comprise Gounod's "Faust," Wagner's "Lohengrin," and Meyerbeer's "Huguenot."

The attractiveness of the company will be opened on Monday, February 13th, at M. B. Ramon & Co.'s, when season subscribers will be given first choice of seats. Tickets will be delivered at the time of subscribing.

The sale of tickets for single nights will begin on Monday, February 13th. There will be no matinee.

Robbers at Work.

About a clock yesterday morning robbers attempted to break into the cigar-factory at the Male Orphan Asylum; but Mr. Joseph Cecil, who rooms in that building, was aroused and gave the alarm, frightening them off before they had accomplished their fiendish design.

The druggist of George Turner, corner of Twenty-second and Main streets, was entered by the rear window some time during Thursday night by thieves, who carried off three silver watches, one lot of jewelry, three boxes of cigars, and one lot of fancy articles—the whole valued at about \$50.

Persons and Briefs.

Alderman Dickerson is ill.

The House passed the Richmond Exposition bill yesterday.

Hon. George W. Palmer is stopping with Mr. Lewis W. Burwell, 202 West Main street.

Miss Laura Moorman, of Bedford county, Va., is visiting Miss Alice Burwell, west Main street.

Rev. Dr. Drew has returned from Alabama, and will officiate to-day at Grace-Street Presbyterian church.

Rev. R. C. Cave has returned from Brooklyn, N. Y., and will occupy his pulpit this morning and to-night.

Mr. John Casey, of No. 414 north Fourth street, one of the oldest residents of Richmond, is leaving critically ill.

The Police Court bill, introduced by Mr. Curtis, will not receive the undivided support of the Richmond delegation.

Assistant-Engineer W. G. Fuller, of Engine-House No. 5, was presented with a beautiful gold badge Friday night by the companies in that district.

Miss Cordelia Roberts and Miss Eva Smith, of Windsor, Isle of Wight county, Va., on the first of February, 1888, at 1226 east Broad street, have returned home.

Miss Sarah Ellick, of Asheville, N. C., is visiting her mother, Mrs. M. Ellick, 105 north Seventeenth street, and will in a few days leave for New York and Boston to visit relatives.

Miss Moore and Miss Edith Moore, sisters of Senator B. W. Moore, who have been visiting the family of Judge H. H. Hutzburg, 410 east Leigh street, left for their home in Fairfax county on Monday.

Mr. John C. Teller, of Richmond, an ex-clerk of the House of Representatives, reached here day before yesterday with the congressman who came to inspect the Richmond Locomotive and Machine-Works.

Captain Martin Meredith Lipscomb will speak at Old Pine-Street Baptist church, on the first of February, to-day at 8:30 P. M. Subject: "Past, Present, and Future." At 8:30 o'clock Lieutenant James H. May will speak on the same subject.

The Executive Committee of the Virginia State Sunday-School Union—Judge E. H. Fitzhugh, president, and Messrs. William H. Hylton and Charles H. Hylton, secretaries—will meet at the Young Men's Christian Association Hall this afternoon at 3 o'clock.

"A Dream and Its Fulfillment" will be the subject of the Rev. Mr. Wiley's talk to men only at the Chesapeake and Old reading-rooms at 2:45 o'clock this afternoon. Those who come may expect a plain, but a good talk. As usual, there will be first-class music.

The Washington Star of yesterday says: "The ice is now so thick on the Potomac as to obstruct navigation, and a long freeze seems probable. Oysters, a fish and all the commerce of the river is delayed." Our "noble Jesus" is still flowing serenely on to the sea, and shows no signs of freezing.

As heretofore announced in these columns, Mr. E. B. Thomas, general manager of the Richmond and Danville system, has resigned, and his resignation has been accepted to take effect February 1st. Major Peyton Randolph, for several years assistant general manager, has been chosen to succeed Mr. Thomas. Mr. Thomas will be vice-president of the Erie, with headquarters at Cleveland.

Appointment.

The Governor has appointed Mr. S. S. Wilkins, of Northampton, a member of the Board of Visitors of the Female Penitentiary School. Mr. Wilkins is the flatter delegate from the counties of Accomack and Northampton, and is a member of the House Committee on Schools and Colleges.

Suspicious Character.

J. H. Demarest alias Harry Denning was arrested last night by Sergeant Tomlinson and Officer Shields, charged with being a suspicious character. He had been a physician and lived at 1069 Madison avenue, New York.

Will Probated.

The will of H. P. Taylor was admitted to probate in the Probate Court yesterday. He leaves the estate to his wife, Mrs. Cornelia S. Taylor. She qualified as administratrix.

The estate is valued at \$7,000.

The Colored Army.

The site recently selected for the colored army is at the corner of Leigh and St. Peter streets.

Handsome Presents Free.

John Bradford, 1302 Main street, is selling a mixed tea at 60 cents a pound and gives a handsome present with every pound; also, a first-rate Baking Powder at 50 cents a pound and gives a nice Glass Sugar-Dish, Butter-Dish, Cream-Pitcher, and Spoon-Fork with every pound. This is the greatest gift ever made to a baking-powder. Calls attention also to his splendid brand of XXXX Whiskey; it is selling this whiskey all over the country from New York to Georgia; can be shipped anywhere in patent demijohns. Send in your orders.

The Everett Piano.

Sole agency at Manly B. Ramon & Co.'s. Be sure and see the Everett Piano before buying. Full guarantee. Catalogues free. Next the corner of Ninth street on Main.

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